

Claims:

1. A hub for a fibre channel arbitrated loop, said hub comprising a switching device including a matrix of switches connected by a plurality of signal lines, each signal line being electrically connected to at least one switch, operable to selectively connect and disconnect one signal line from at least one other signal line, at least some of said signal lines being operatively connectable to respective devices comprising said fibre-channel arbitrated loop, said switching device being operatively configurable to selectively open and close said switches to arrange said devices on said fibre-channel arbitrated loop.

2. A hub as claimed in claim 1 wherein said plurality of signal lines is divided into a first sub-set and a second sub-set of signal lines, at least some of said first sub-set of signal lines being operatively connectable to respective input ports of devices comprising said fibre-channel arbitrated loop, and at least some of said second sub-set of signal lines being operatively connectable to respective output ports of devices comprising said fibre-channel arbitrated loop.

3. A hub as claimed in claim 1 wherein said devices comprise a combination of storage devices and repeaters.

4. A hub as claimed in claim 2 wherein said switching device is configurable to operatively connect one of said second sub-set of signal lines to a fibre channel analyser.

5. A hub as claimed in claim 1 wherein said switching device is a cross-point switch.

6. A circuit board comprising a hub according to claim 1, said circuit board including a plurality of tracks which in use connect at least some of said signal lines to a respective one of each of said devices comprising said fibre channel
5 arbitrated loop.

7. A circuit board as claimed in claim 6 wherein the circuit board is an enclosure services processor card adapted to plug into a backplane for a rack enclosure and said plurality of tracks terminate at an edge connector for connecting said card into said backplane.

8. A circuit board as claimed in claim 6 wherein the circuit board is a backplane for a rack enclosure and said plurality of tracks terminate at respective edge connectors for
15 connecting said backplane to said devices comprising said fibre channel arbitrated loop.

9. A rack enclosure comprising a backplane incorporating a hub according to claim 1 and a plurality of devices connected to said backplane forming a fibre channel arbitrated loop.
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10. A rack enclosure according to claim 9 wherein the hub is incorporated on one of said backplane or a card plugged into
25 said backplane.

11. A hub according to claim 1 wherein said switching device is operatively connectable to an enclosure services processor, said processor being adapted to configure said switching
30 device to arrange said devices on said fibre channel arbitrated loop and to connect said fibre channel analyser to said loop.

12. An enclosure services processor card adapted to plug into a backplane for a rack enclosure, said card including a processor operatively connected to a hub for a fibre channel arbitrated loop, said hub comprising one or more switches
5 connected by a plurality of signal lines, at least one of said signal lines being electrically connected to more than one switch, said card including a plurality of tracks which in use connect at least some of said signal lines to a respective one of each of said devices comprising said fibre channel
10 arbitrated loop, said plurality of tracks terminating at an edge connector for connecting said card to said backplane, said enclosure services processor being operable to selectively control at least some of said switches to arrange said devices on said fibre-channel arbitrated loop.

13. A enclosure services processor card as claimed in claim 12 wherein said enclosure services processor is adapted to
15 configure said fibre-channel devices into two loops.